

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5, 6, 9 and 10 have been amended. Claims 1-11 are still pending. Reexamination and allowance of the pending claims is respectfully requested.

The allowability of claims 5 and 9 is gratefully acknowledged. As a result, claims 5 and 9 have been rewritten to include the limitations of base claims 1 and 6, respectively, and are therefore submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claims 1 and 6

Claims 1-3 and 6-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 2,946,474 to Knapp ("Knapp"). Claims 1-3, 6 and 8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by USP 6,010,024 to Wang ("Wang"). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Independent claims 1 and 6 have been amended to recite, among other limitations, that the support block or means is provided adjacent the side edge of the bottom end of the shell to support the liner in a raised position that is at an angle with respect to the shell. See FIG. 5 of the present invention.

In contrast, the "support block" 54 in Knapp is provided at a central position, and not adjacent any side edge of the bottom end of the shell 10. In addition, the liner 38 is not supported at an angle with respect to the shell 10, as best shown in FIG. 1 of Knapp.

Similarly, the "support block" 913 in Wang is provided at a central position, and not adjacent any side edge of the bottom end of the shell 6. In addition, the liner 7 is not supported at an angle with respect to the shell 6, as best shown in FIG. 2 of Wang.

Thus, claims 1 and 6, and claims 2-4 and 7-8 depending therefrom, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Independent Claim 10

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Knapp in view of USP 5,598,942 to Cowie ("Cowie"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Independent claim 10 has been amended to recite, among other limitations, that the support block is provided adjacent the side edge of the bottom end of the shell. Claim 10 also recites the step of supporting the liner on the support block in a raised position at an angle with respect to the shell when removing the trash bag.

For the reasons explained above in connection with claims 1 and 6, Knapp does not teach or suggest these limitations. Thus, claim 10, and claim 11 depending therefrom, are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Thus, all pending claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned if there are informalities that can be resolved in a phone conversation, or if the Examiner has any ideas or suggestions for further advancing the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully Submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper and its enclosures are being deposited with the United States Postal service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below.

Date: August 5, 2004

By: 
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